

CLAIMS

1. An authentication server for automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers (AUID) in order to authenticate a user of a terminal (T) in order to authorize the user to access a service dispensed by a service server (SE) of a provider identified by a provider identifier (PRID) via a communication network (RC), characterized in that it
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means (MSA) for selecting an authentication identifier (AUID) in a memory (TA1 to TA6) as a function of the provider identifier (PRID) and the type of the terminal and/or the type of the communication network, and means (MA) for
15 authenticating the user by means of an authentication process associated with the authentication identifier (AUID).
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2. An authentication server according to claim 1, wherein the selecting means (MSA) selects (E4) the authentication identifier (AUID) as a function of an authentication security level (NAU) in corresponding relationship to the provider identifier (PRID).
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3. An authentication server according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the selecting means (MSA) selects the authentication identifier (AUID) as a function of authentication rules (RE) associated with the provider identifier (PRID) and applied to at least an authentication security level (NAU) corresponding to the provider identifier (PRID) and/or to the terminal type and/or to the communication network type.
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4. An authentication server according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the service server (SE) comprises means (API) for transmitting (E2) at least the provider identifier (PRID) and the terminal type and/or the communication network type to the selecting means (MSA) in response to a connection set up between the user terminal (T) and the service server (SE).

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10 5. An authentication server according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the selecting means (MSA) transmits to the terminal (F2) a list ($\{\text{SID}\}$) of services identified by service identifiers (SID), in response to a connection set up between the user terminal (T) and the selecting means (MSA), and the terminal transmits (F3) to the selection means a service identifier (SID) of a service selected by the user in the transmitted list in order for the selecting means to select the authentication identifier (AUID) as a function also of the selected service identifier (SID).

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20 6. An authentication server according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the selecting means (MSA) transmits to the terminal (F2) a list ($\{\text{PRID}\}$) of provider identifiers (PRID) in response to a connection set up between the user terminal (T) and the selecting means (MSA), and the terminal transmits (F3) to the selecting means a provider identifier (PRID) selected by the user in the transmitted list in order for the selecting means to select the authentication identifier (AUID) as a function in particular of the selected provider identifier (PRID).

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30 7. An authentication server according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein, if the user has been authenticated, the authenticating means (MSA) transmits (E13, F16) to the

service server (SE) the terminal type, the communication network type, the transmitted service identifier (SID), and a security level (NAU) of the authentication designated by the selected authentication identifier (AUID).

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8. An authentication server according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it comprises two separate servers respectively including the selecting means (MSA) and the authenticating means (MA).

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9. A method for automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications identified respectively by authentication identifiers (AUID) in order to authenticate a user of a terminal (T) to authorize the user to access a service dispensed by a service server (SE) of a provider identified by a provider identifier (PRID) via a communication network (RC), characterized in that it comprises the steps of :

20 - selecting an authentication identifier (AUID) in a memory (TA1 to TA6) as a function of the provider identifier (PRID) and the type of the terminal and/or the type of the communication network, and . . .

- authenticating the user by an authentication process associated with the authentication identifier (AUID).

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10. A computer program on an information medium, loaded into and executed in an authentication server (SA) for automatically selecting one of a plurality of authentications respectively identified by authentication identifiers (AUID) in order to authenticate a user of a terminal (T) in order to authorize the user to access a service dispensed by a service server (SE) of a provider identified by a provider identifier

(PRID) via a communication network (RC), said program including program instructions for:

- selecting an authentication identifier (AUID) in a memory (TA1 to TA6) as a function of the provider identifier (PRID) and the type of the terminal and/or the type of the communication network, and

5 - authenticating the user by an authentication process associated with the authentication identifier (AUID).